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*L'Etat de Guerre and Projet de Paix Perpétuelle*, two essays by JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU; with introduction and notes by SHIRLEY G. PATTERSON. Foreword by GEORGE HAVEN PUTNAM. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1920. liv + 90 pp.

The reprint in a separate little volume of these two essays is due chiefly to their "modernity," to the "suggestiveness to students of present day problems," as the editors say.

In the first, "*L'Etat de Guerre*" (pp. 3-20), one certainly finds the stamp of Rousseau's thought and style. That man makes you think, even when you are not willing, for a thousand considerations, to agree with him. His arguments *are* arguments, and this is after all the best a philosopher can offer. Between truth and the search for truth, many already have preferred the second. At the same time, one may be allowed to say here that R. knew what he was doing when he did not consider this essay as one of his really finished products. By this the writer does not mean to say that the essay ought not to be printed; by all means students of R. must know it; but whether young students will profit much by it is another question; it is so abstract that it may well give them a distaste for R. One may say that one line by a "poilu" who has seen the great war and tells of his *actual* experiences will do more to convey to us the horrors of war than the pages of R. drawn from pure imagination, eloquent though those pages may be.

Towards the second essay (pp. 23-76) the writer feels very differently. Indeed it is a remarkably clear and concise statement of the very problems the world has a chance to solve today. The forceful dialect of R. is bound to persuade sceptics that the "*Société des peuples de l'Europe*"—today more simply "*Société des peuples*"—is certainly conceivable and feasible, if only men wanted it. Everything is there: Normal Angell's "Great Illusion," the problem of disarmament, and the ideas of the Hague Tribunal, of the League for Enforcement of Peace, of Wilson's League of Nations. Moreover, the discussion and demonstration is based entirely on the political situation of the eighteenth century. This is itself an advantage, for, in the first place, national prejudices are not quite the same today as they were in the eighteenth century; at any rate, the rivalries among nations rest on different problems. Thus we can consider them and their solution by an international league without our present day passions getting aroused and con-

fusing our judgment. In the second place, the political conditions today are infinitely more favorable to peace conditions; the people have more to say than they had in the age of R. The democratic spirit of our day has done away with the idea that the monarch has a right to run the state for other purposes than the general welfare. We no longer consider war as a conflict between "Princes," as R. would say, but between "Peuples souverains." And there are other things that seemed quite hard obstacles when R. wrote and which appear today much easier to overcome. Mr. Patterson would have presented these ideas to a larger public by publishing a translation of the essays, but this had been only recently done by Mr. C. E. Vaughan (London, Constable, 1917).

The Foreword of Mr. Putnam (pp. iii-xiv) is a masterly and concise presentation of the history of the idea of everlasting peace from Emeric Crucé's *Le Nouveau Cynée* (1623) to President Wilson's League of Nations. This history is preceded by a no less interesting account of the attempts made by the Roman Empire and then by the Church and then by the German Empire to assure peace to the world—attempts which were all futile. Mr. Putnam recalls with some details the earnest efforts to prompt the feeling for universal peace made by Prince Albert in 1861, at the time of the first World's Fair in London, and which many of us had indeed quite forgotten. On the other hand, Mr. Putnam does not mention here the contribution made to the cause of Peace by the Hague Tribunal, the idea of which was launched by the Russian court. Is it because everyone knows about it?

Professor Patterson in his "Introduction" (pp. xvii-liii) has another object in view. He wishes to offer to his readers a background to R.'s two essays. He gives some information on eighteenth century literature (the *Age des Philosophes*) in general, in which he makes no claim to originality, then on R. himself. We may be permitted to say that for an already quite confirmed Rousseauist as Mr. Patterson has been for some time, he has allowed some rather curious misstatements to creep in.<sup>1</sup> This must be ascribed, however,

<sup>1</sup> E. g. R.'s first readings were not "Romances of Chivalry," but rather pastoral or précieux romances; there is quite a nuance (p. xxv).—One would hardly call the house which Mme de Warens rented near Chambéry a "villa"; it is because it was not a villa that R. liked it so well (p. xxv).—The French Academy did not "reject" R.'s "System of Notation of Music."—R. lived at Montmorency for six years, but less than two

we are sure, to his desire to bring his little book before the public at an early date: it is needed *right now!* The ten pages or so devoted to the influence of R., in which Mr P. produces interesting appreciations by very great men of R.'s powerful mind make a good counterblast to the now fashionable sport of abusing R.'s so-called shallow democraticism or romanticism. The "Notes" are generally useful. The writer is inclined to think, however, that if Mr. P. presupposed, perhaps, too little general information on the part of his readers in the "Introduction," he presupposed too much at times in the "Notes." But this may be a purely personal opinion. The text adopted by Mr. Patterson is that of Professor Vaughan in the latter's admirable *Political Writings of Rousseau*.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### AARON HILL'S POEM ON BLANK VERSE

In his *Essay on the Genius and Writings of Pope*,<sup>1</sup> Joseph Warton speaks of Aaron Hill's "Poem in Praise of Blank Verse, which begins thus; and which," he says, "one would think was burlesque:

Up, from Rhyme's poppied vale! and ride the storm  
That thunders in blank verse!"

I have been unable to find the piece in Hill's collected works,<sup>2</sup> and, although Warton's note regarding it is referred to by Mr. Beers,<sup>3</sup> and Mr. J. W. Good,<sup>4</sup> neither scholar seems to have seen the poem. Mr. Good says that it was "dated about 1726," but does not give the source of his information. Miss Dorothy

of them in the "house built for him by an admirer" (p. xxviii).—R. did *not* flee to Geneva in 1762 (p. xxxi);—then he was three *continuous* years at Motiers before he went to England, and again eight continuous years in Paris, 1770-1778.—As for the statement that according to Rousseau the state rests on "arbitrary convention," there is a probability that the author of the Social Contract would not very much like it (p. xxx).

<sup>1</sup> 1782, II, 251 n., or 5th ed., 1806, II, 186 n.

<sup>2</sup> Second ed., 4 vols., 1754.

<sup>3</sup> *English Romanticism in the Eighteenth Century*, 271.

<sup>4</sup> *Studies in the Milton Tradition* (University of Illinois Studies in Language, etc., 1915), 166.